The Explorers

A Visitors' Guide to the Southeast Arizona Parks

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Chiricahua National Monument
Coronado National Memorial
Fort Bowie National Historic Site

"SPEAKERS' ROCK" OVERLOOKS HOODOOS AT MASSAI NATURE TRAIL, CHIRICAHUA NM *Scott Aldridge/WNPA*

NUMEROUS PARK UPGRADES UNDER WAY

Welcome to your national parks! Over the last year, the park staff has been working on projects throughout the three parks in Southeast Arizona to improve your visitor experience. They have put new roofs on deteriorating buildings, painted peeling structures, begun to replace failing sewer systems, made the trails flatter and safer, initiated repairs to roads, cleaned all our public facilities on a regular basis, and so much more.

With the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, our parks have received funding for a variety of improvements that create jobs in Southern Arizona. We employed people in the construction industry to help us rehabilitate a building, we are employing local citizens to help us close off abandoned mines and replace worn and dilapidated fencing, and we're employing people from around Southern Arizona to continue to improve the quality of our trails.

It is our hope that these projects improve the quality of your experience by providing you with a cleaner, safer environment while you're here. In addition to what we're working on now, we hope to upgrade our visitor center exhibits by utilizing a combination of federal dollars, your entrance fees, and private donations. Please look for those improvements throughout the parks in the coming years.

We're all experiencing tough economic times and it is our challenge as a federal agency to make the best use of the funds we receive. We hope that you see a continued improvement in the quality of our visitor facilities and programs as we use dollars along with creativity and efficiency to get things accomplished. It is also my wish that if you would like to see additional or different projects or programs that you'll let me know. Your input helps me and my staff to give our visitors what they want and expect during their visit. Please write to me at the park or stop by one of our three visitor centers and leave a comment. I look forward to hearing your thoughts, both complimentary and constructive.

Let me also thank each of you for your contributions to national parks whether that's through your tax dollars, entrance fees, purchases at our bookstores, donations directly to us or donations through another organization that supports parks. I and my staff commit to each of you a promise to expend those funds wisely, effectively and with visitors in mind. Whether this is your first visit or your hundred and first, we hope you find the experience enjoyable, inspiring, peaceful, educational and fun.

Sincerely,
Kym A. Hall
General Superintendent

FORT BOWIE GUARDED APACHE SPRING

by Karen Weston Gonzales/NPS Ranger

Apache Spring still flows at Fort Bowie

JUST A SHORT DISTANCE WEST of Fort Bowie National Historic Site a trickle of water flows down over a rock embankment to splash softly into a small, shallow pool below. The water flows from a spring at an average rate of about five gallons, or 19 liters, per minute.

From the small pool the water flows slowly away from the spring, through decaying leaves and twigs, meandering along only a few hundred feet or so before suddenly disappearing back down into the ground. Though small, this little spring is a big part of the history here and the very reason that Fort Bowie came into being.

Nothing is more precious in a desert climate than water. Apache Spring, named after the Chiricahua Apache people who once inhabited the region, was an important known water source in the 1800s when European American settlers first began traveling westward in great numbers. From 1858-61, many weary travelers walking and bumping along in wagons over the Butterfield Overland Trail along the Apache Pass route refreshed themselves at Apache Spring. A stage station was built near the spring and for a few years the Apache people and the people who worked at the station were friendly with each other.

But the peace did not last. In 1861, an incident between the U.S. military and Cochise, chief of the Chiricahua Apaches, ended in bloodshed when Cochise was wrongly accused of kidnapping a boy and stealing livestock. A young lieutenant tried to arrest the chief, but he escaped. Both sides took hostages during the conflict and executed them. Apache Spring then became a very dangerous place for anyone to try to get a drink of water.

The following year, In the middle of July, during the Civil War, when Union forces of California Volunteers marched into Apache Pass on their way to Texas, pursuing Confederate troops that had retreated from Tucson, they were ambushed by several hundred of Cochise's warriors, who had been observing their approach. After walking 40 miles across the Sulphur Springs Valley in temperatures soaring higher than 110 degrees, these soldiers had to fight hard for their drink of water during the two-day Battle of Apache Pass as it came to be known. Captain Thomas H. Roberts reported the battle to General James Henry Carleton, advising the general that: "A force sufficient to hold the water and pass should be stationed there, otherwise every command will have to fight for water."

Carleton agreed and on July 28, 1862, Fort Bowie was officially established to guard Apache Spring and to ensure safe passage for travelers, mail couriers and supply trains through Apache Pass.

Long before any of this history occurred, human beings had been drinking from Apache Spring. Ancient pottery sherds found near the spring reveal that people have been using the water there for thousands of years. The first people to drink there most likely followed animal tracks to the spring. Plenty of wildlife still depend upon that precious water source, especially during extended periods of drought. Mountain lion, bear, bobcat, javelina, coatimundi, deer and bat are just a few of the mammals that have been seen drinking from the spring.

Apache Spring flows from ground water that comes from where a canyon has cut across a zone of bedrock that was shattered along a fault. The sedimentary limestone and igneous granite rocks found in the Apache Pass Fault system are generally impermeable, but water is stored in fractures that have been created by folding and faulting, a result of Earth's movement long ago.

Geologists believe the Apache Pass fault system may have been formed during Precambrian time, or 1.4 billion years ago, experiencing an active period of slippage during later geologic time. On one side of this fault lies gray Horquilla limestone and on the other side lies Rattlesnake Point Granite. The strike-slip fault was created with a fracture in the Earth's crust where rocks on one side have been moved horizontally relative to the rocks on the other side of the fault.

Melting snow and rainwater from the higher parts of the drainage basin percolate through the alluvium (sediment deposited by flowing water) of Siphon Canyon into a zone of fractured rock below. The water re-emerges at the surface as a spring where streams have intercepted the fault shattered zones. While Fort Bowie was occupied by the military, Apache Spring was the only source of water for all those living at the fort from 1862 until 1885. Water was hauled from the spring to the fort in wagons pulled by teams of mules and horses. In 1885, people at the fort, uphill from the spring, became sick with dysentery and some died. The spring had become contaminated.

After that time and up until the fort was abandoned by the military in 1894, Bear Spring, east of Fort Bowie, was used as a source of fresh water for the occupants.

Today, the spring is very quiet. All the fighting for its water is over. A little bench sits near the water, a perfect place to sit in the shade on a hot summer day and ponder historical events that took place long ago. Sitting quietly there, one can almost hear the human sounds of the past and imagine soldiers riding by on horses, or Apache children laughing and splashing in the water, or even women whispering a thousand years ago, (not wanting to alert mountain lions or even jaguars of their presence,) as they collected water in their pots and gourd canteens.

A small oasis in a harsh desert, Apache Spring still flows, its rate varying somewhat between seasons and in and out of periods of drought. The trickling water has a voice of its own, a quiet little song that many a thirsty being has rejoiced in hearing. ❦

CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT IS NOT YOUR TYPICAL ARIZONA TOURIST DESTINATION

Nestled in the northwest corner of the Chiricahua Mountains, this "Wonderland of Rocks" was set aside by President Calvin Coolidge on April 18, 1924 to preserve and protect an amazing array of balanced rocks and pinnacles. However, there is far more to this 11,985-acre monument than pretty rocks and inspiring scenery.

Your adventure begins in the grasslands of lower Bonita Canyon as you enter the park. Watch for Arizona white-tail deer grazing in the open meadows or the occasional wild turkeys. Soaptree yucca, agaves or century plants, and prickly pear cactus are reminders this is the transition zone between desert grassland and mountain forest.

The forest thickens with oak and pine trees as you continue driving up Bonita Canyon. Arizona sycamore trees with their white bark glow along Bonita Creek as it zigzags beneath the 8-mile scenic road. Coatimundi might be busy digging in the dirt as they search for insects, nuts, or berries to eat, while the rusty-red Chiricahua fox squirrels, which live only in the Chiricahua Mountains, watch from Arizona cypress branches.

Coming around the last corner, the road ends at Massai Point over 1,600 feet higher than the mouth of Bonita Canyon. The earth drops away as a forest of balanced rocks and pinnacles line the canyons.

Green, black, and orange lichens decorate the formations that were carved by ice and water from layers of rhyolite. This gray-colored rock was originally ash and debris blown out during the Turkey Creek volcano eruption an estimated twenty-seven million years ago.

The material was so hot when it settled that the particles melted and welded together. As you enjoy the views listen to the chatter of Mexican jays, the sigh of wind through the trees, or the over-whelming quiet that blankets the area.

On your return trip down the canyon, consider the many people who have called this area home. Spanning the ages from the first Paleo-Indians to Cochise and the Chiricahua Apache, along with buffalo soldiers, settlers and ranchers, Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees, park rangers, and visitors today: all have been influenced by the diversity and beauty of this unique place. ❦

DID YOU KNOW…?

Rattlesnakes are classified as "pit vipers" and have a pair of heat-sensitive pits below their nostrils, allowing them to sense warm-blooded prey by its "thermal image," even in the dark.

Rattlesnakes use hollow, needle-like fangs that fold out when the mouth opens to inject venom in split-second contact with prey, or an animal or human that poses a direct threat to the snake. The fangs have venom ducts connected to glands under the back jaws., which are connected with ligaments only, allowing them to stretch around prey.

Rattlesnakes are extremely sensitive to chemical cues. Their long, forked tongues, which they stick out to pick up scents, transmit odors to receptors in what is called a "Jacobson's organ" at the roof of their mouths, allowing the snakes to follow odor trails of envenomated prey. The dying heart beats of an envenomated animal spread tissue-destructive venom throughout the body so that digestion has begun before the prey is swallowed.

Rattlesnakes don't have ears but they can pick up, or feel, vibrations. They are the only pit-viper that evolved a rattle. The rattle is made of keratin, like our fingernails, and they are loosely connected.

There are 13 types of rattlesnakes in Arizona, 9 of which can be seen here in Cochise County. The most commonly seen are the Western Diamondback, Mojave, and Black-tail.

Rattlesnakes are very familiar with their home ranges. They have favorite spots for hunting, resting, nesting, and return over and over again to places where they were born, where they have given birth and even places they have mated in the past. If a rattler is relocated more than one quarter mile from its home range studies have shown that it will most likely become disoriented, stop hunting, and starve to death.

Males will follow scent trails of females, with mating on their minds. If two males come upon a female, they will fight over her, wrestling with each other, until the stronger one throws down the other. They don't bite or injure each other, but will continue to wrestle until the weaker snake backs down.

Rattlesnakes have elaborate courtship rituals but only about 10 percent of these will result in copulation. A pair of courting rattlers can mate up to 12 hours at a time. A mother rattlesnake gives birth to live young during the monsoon season.

A recent study of Black-tail rattlesnakes in the Chiricahua mountains revealed mother rattlesnakes remain with their babies for about 10 days, until the young snakes shed their first skin and are better able to defend themselves, even though the mother loses 40 percent of the body weight after giving birth, is emaciated, and hungry.

Rattlesnakes are ambush hunters. They have favorite hunting spots and wait until prey comes close enough to strike, which is about one third to one half their body length. They do not stalk prey, except to follow the scent trails of envenomated prey.

Statistics show that more than 65 percent of rattlesnake bites are provoked by the person who is bitten. The average cost of treating a rattlesnake bite today can reach up to $100,000.

DON'T TREAD ON ME!

by Karen Weston Gonzales/NPS Ranger

ENJOYING THE GREAT OUTDOORS here in our desert southwest is often an incredible adventure. However, occasionally the experience becomes a little more adventurous than some people prefer. Anyone who spends a lot of time outside in Southeast Arizona will eventually cross paths with rattlesnakes. When a person discovers they are sharing the same space with a rattler, it is the person's behavior and actions that determines how the encounter goes.

Rattlesnakes are only dangerous to people when they fail to respect the snake's personal space. Rattlers only strike at human beings when they feel threatened by them. Statistics show that most bites occur when a person provokes a snake by either accidently stepping on one or purposely trying to capture, harass, or kill the animal. Studies have shown the majority of snake bites occur to young, intoxicated men who are bitten on the hand while engaged in one or all of these activities.

So, what are your chances of being bitten by a rattlesnake? According to the American International Rattlesnake Museum, lightning strikes pose a much greater threat to human beings than rattlesnakes.

How can a person prepare themselves for possible encounters with rattlesnakes? EXPECT them.

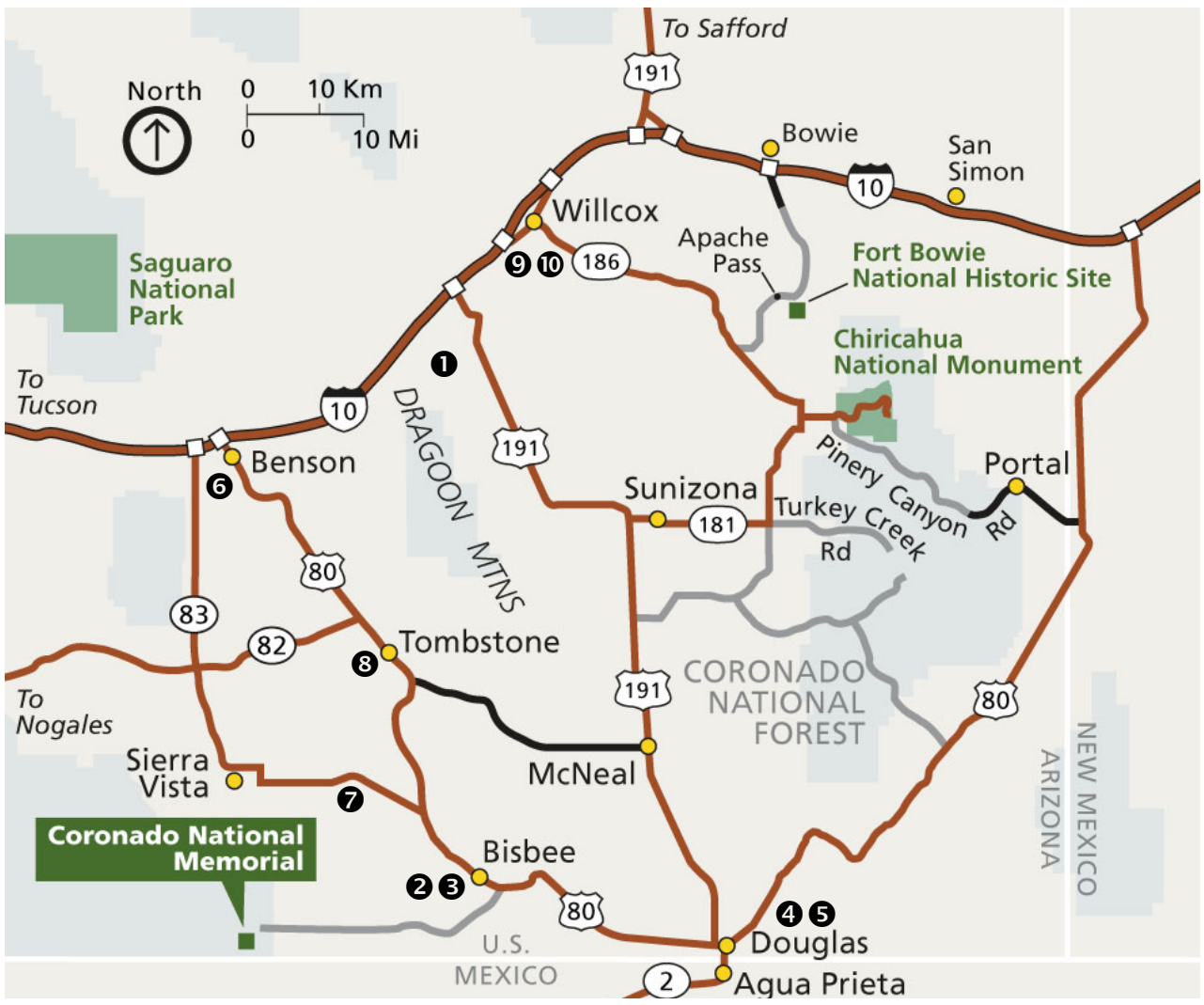
One of the most successful reptiles on our planet, this has been their home for millions of years. If we can learn a few facts about rattlesnakes we can be ready for safe encounters with these fascinating creatures.

To avoid conflicts with rattlesnakes, leave them alone. Always watch where you place your hands and feet, taking extra caution climbing or walking among rocks, woodpiles and deep grass. Snakes are most active April through October. During our hottest months they are most active early morning, late afternoon and at night. Always use a flashlight while walking outside at night. Never handle a rattlesnake, even after it is dead, even if its head is separated from its body. A rattlesnake head can still bite for several hours after its death.

If you encounter a rattlesnake, stay calm and encourage everyone else with you to remain calm. Do not approach the snake. If a pet is harassing the snake in any way, attempt to gain control of the pet if you can do so without approaching the snake. If the snake is moving, move yourself, and others, in the opposite direction. If the snake is coiled and/or rattling, and is located close to you, move quickly away from it in a calm, deliberate, non-threatening manner. Keep in mind the snake wants nothing to do with you. It will only strike if it feels threatened. Do not threaten it, or allow others, including pets, to threaten it in any way.

If a bite occurs, stay calm. Walk, don't run, to the nearest help. A panicked victim's blood races through his or her veins, spreading venom. Remove any tight clothing or jewelry from the affected limb. If possible, immobilize affected limb at approximately heart level and get to a health facility without delay.

OTHER THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN COCHISE COUNTY



1. Amerind Foundation Museum, Dragoon
2. Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum, Bisbee
3. Queen Mine Tours, Bisbee
4. Slaughter Ranch/San Bernardino Land Grant, Douglas
5. Douglas/Williams House Museum and Genealogical Library, Douglas
6. Kartchner Caverns State Park, Benson
7. San Pedro Valley Riparian National Conservation Area, Sierra Vista
8. Tombstone Courthouse State Park, Tombstone
9. Rex Allen Museum and Cowboy Hall of Fame, Willcox
10. Chiricahua Regional Museum, Willcox

EXCITING NEW BOXES HAVE ARRIVED

by Sharlot Hart/NPS Ranger

AS MANY PARENTS HAVE DISCOVERED, boxes can sometimes be more interesting and fun to kids than the items that came in them. However, the SEAZ Group of National Park Service sites has recently completed two new boxes with some sure-to-excite fun stuff inside.

Available (and free!) to school classes, these 'Explorer Boxes' come with a ranger who will guide students through a 50 minute lesson. As everyone's budgets have grown tighter and tighter, fewer schools are able to afford the bussing required for a trip to one of the national park sites. We hope the Explorer Boxes will fill a need to connect students with the natural world, and to get some of the experiences they would have had during a park field trip.

Hands-on experiences are replicated in the classroom with the imitation skulls, scat and insects that fill the boxes. Those activities are blended with questions and exercises (based on Arizona State Standards) to help students of all learning styles gain skills and knowledge to explore the natural world around them. Bugs in the backyard and pet dog tracks will take on a whole new meaning for these kids after exploring some of the natural resources near them with a ranger. If they're lucky and can make the trip to one of their close-by SEAZ sites with family or friends they may even become the tour guide, showing-off what they've learned.

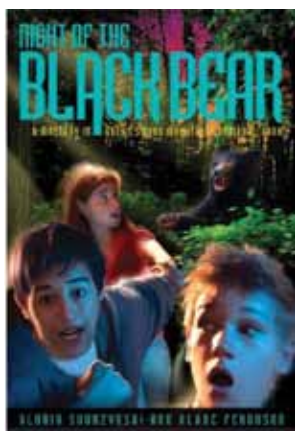
The two new Explorer Boxes include lessons for classes Kindergarten through 5th Grade on Mammals and Bugs. Students will explore skulls and tracks while learning what makes a mammal a mammal and why insects are so crunchy. Keep an eye out for more boxes in the future, too!

For more information, or to schedule your class, please call:
Chiricahua National Monument: Suzanne Moody, 520-824-3560 x305
Coronado National Memorial: Katy Hooper, 520-366-5515 x2321

MYSTERIES IN OUR NATIONAL PARKS

Staff pick for intermediate readers

What do you get when you combine a fictional family of four, a foster child or two, and a spine-tingling mystery all set in a national park? The answer is a series of mystery books published by the National Geographic Society for children ages eight to fifteen.



Written by Gloria Skurzynski, an award-winning science writer, and Alane Ferguson, an award-winning mystery writer, this mother-daughter team combines their skills to create the thrilling series, "Mysteries in Our National Parks".

Each novel centers on brother and sister, Jack and Ashley Landon. Their mother, Olivia, is a wildlife veterinarian and father, Steven, is a nature photographer. Adding to the mix are the foster children the family cares for on an emergency basis. The Landons combine their skills to solve mysteries involving wildlife issues or environmental challenges in national parks. "Wolf Stalker", the first book of the series, is set in Yellowstone and focuses on the Wolf Restoration Program. In 1998 it was a nominee by the Mystery Writers of America for the Edgar Allan Poe Award, Best Children's Fiction. The books are packed with details about each park that are carefully researched by the authors. The series is a fun, exciting way to engage intermediate readers in national park issues and their role in preserving and protecting these special places.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAMS

Wouldn't you like to learn more about the animals, plants, history, and people at Coronado NMem, Chiricahua NM, or Fort Bowie NHS? Stop at the visitor center and pick up a free copy of the park's Junior Ranger Activity Booklet at the beginning of your visit.

It's loaded with games and activities that will help you explore these special places. Return to the visitor center and share your discoveries with a staff person to receive your patch, badge, or certificate.

To assist you in your adventures, check out a Discovery Daypack. Field guides, binoculars, and a magnifying glass are some of the items inside the pack for you to use during your park visit.

Be sure to check out the on-line National Park Service WebRanger program once you are home. Log onto www.nps.gov/webranger to find activities about parks from all corners of the United States. You can earn a free WebRangers patch.

DID YOU KNOW?

CORONADO

Coronado Cave, located in Coronado National Memorial, has numerous scalloped and tilted limestone bedding planes. Geologists examining these scallops estimate that at one time as much as 50,000 gallons of water per minute flowed through the cave from east to west.

Coronado National Memorial is home to the rare barking frog. Its presence was first confirmed here in 1993. The barking frog hibernates for almost the entire year, except for a few weeks in summer after the first heavy rains. Then, the males can be heard calling from limestone crevices for mates.

Coronado was searching for the 'Seven Cities of Cibola' when he began is expedition in 1540. What does Cibola mean? It is most likely a Spanish corruption of "She Wo No" (Land of the Zuni).

CHIRICAHUA

The stones of the Faraway Ranch house fireplace are carved with names of the Buffalo Soldiers, African American soldiers from Troops E, H, and I of the 10th Cavalry stationed in Bonita Canyon in 1885-1886. The stones were originally used to build a monument to honor President James A. Garfield.

The bright, rusty-red squirrel is the Chiricahua fox squirrel that lives only in the Chiricahua Mountains.

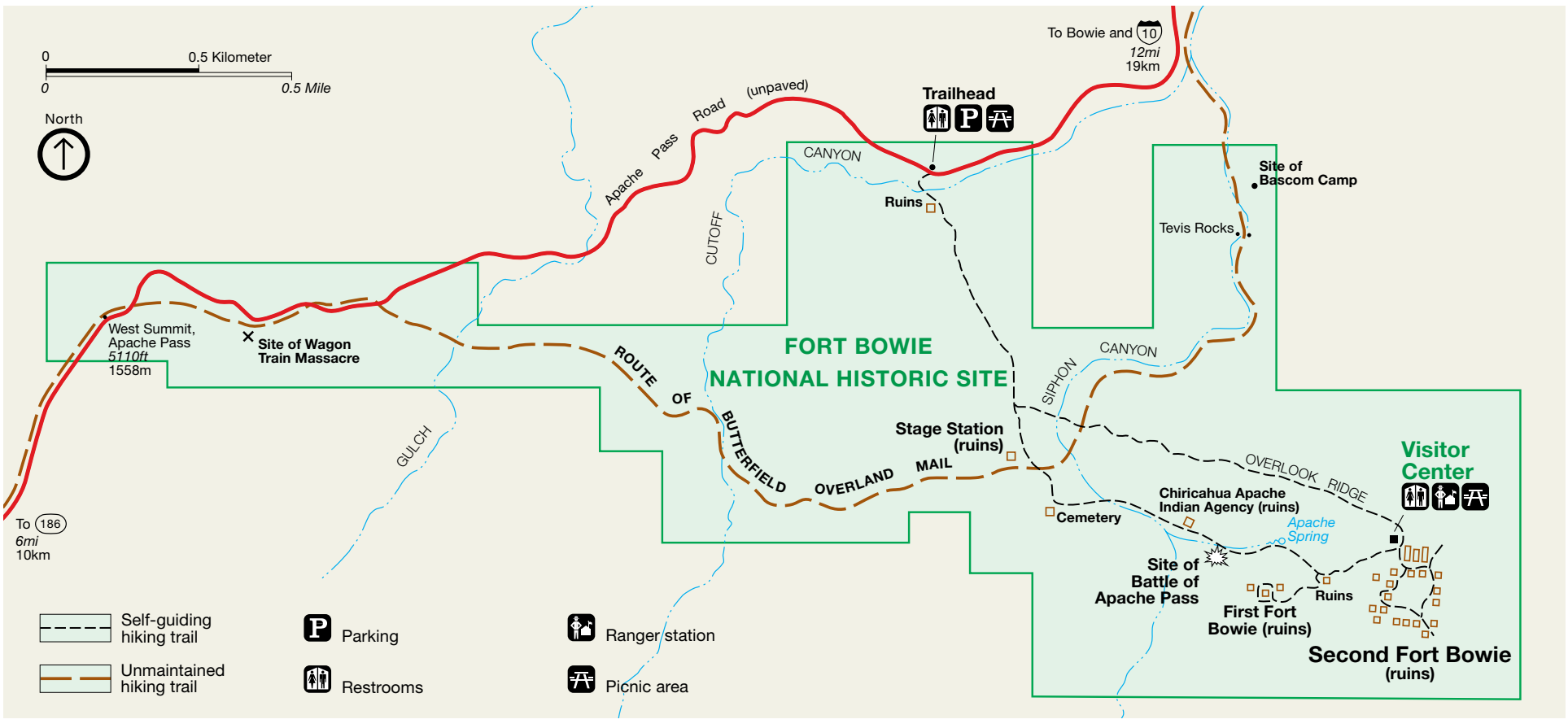
Massai Point was named in honor of Big Foot Massai, a Chiricahua Apache warrior, who jumped the train in Missouri as it was heading to Florida.

FORT BOWIE

Southeast Arizona was home for the Chiricahua Apache, under the leadership of Cochise. Along the 1.5 mile trail to Fort Bowie, you will see a replica of a typical Apache camp with a ramada and wickiup.

General George Crook preferred riding mules, and that his favorite mount was a mule named Apache.

General Crook riding Apache the Mule.



HISTORICAL RELICS RETURNED TO FORT BOWIE

by Karen Weston Gonzales/NPS Ranger

A mountain howitzer, the type used in the Battle of Apache Pass in 1862, sits on the porch at the Fort Bowie visitor center. The cannon ball beneath it was found in 1958 by two brothers who collected it, kept it for 44 years, then sent it back to the fort.

ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, countless relics have been removed from historical sites by people who find them. Most of these are never returned, but some eventually return to where they are found, allowing all of us to learn more about the people involved and events that took place at these historical sites.

As young men, two brothers from Arkansas spent a lot of time during the 1950s and '60s traveling to and camping at remote areas of the Southwest in search of, according to one brother, "abandoned mines, mining camps, ghost towns, old forts and treasure hunts."

The brothers researched many sites and in 1958 made their way along a rough road to the abandoned ruins of Fort Bowie, 14 miles south of the town of Bowie. At that time, before the National Park Service acquired Fort Bowie in 1964 as a national historic site, there was nobody stopping anyone from searching for and collecting artifacts.

While exploring the remains of the fort with a metal detector they made a fascinating discovery near the ruins of a building that once served as a residence for the hospital steward – a rusty cannon ball. They took the relic back to Arkansas. In 2002 they decided it was time for the cannon ball to return and shipped it back with a letter in which one of the brothers wrote: "I had it for 44 years. It belongs back to Fort Bowie in Arizona."

The cannon ball, most likely fired from a mountain howitzer during the Battle of Apache Pass in 1862, now sits in a display case in the visitor center at Fort Bowie National Historic Site. It is the only unexploded shell of its kind known to exist that was fired during the historic battle between General James Carleton's "California Column" and Chiricahua Apaches, led by Chief Cochise.

The Battle of Apache Pass led to the establishment of Fort Bowie. Though Cochise made peace with the United States in 1872, the Apache wars were not yet over. During the 1880s Fort Bowie served as the nerve center during the U.S. military's "Geronimo Campaign" which ended in 1886 with Geronimo's final surrender and the exile of all Chiricahua Apaches from the region.

Abandoned by the military in 1894, nearly 40 buildings from Fort Bowie remained. For a while some of the finer buildings were occupied by miners, future ranchers and others. After they moved on, local people salvaged whatever they could use from the grounds.

As time passed, more and more of Fort Bowie's historical remains disappeared. The adobe walls of the buildings, un-maintained and long exposed to the high desert sun, wind, rain and ice, began to disappear as well. Treasure hunters scavenged the grounds, using metal detectors to locate relics beneath the surface.

When an act of Congress established Fort Bowie as a national historic site, preservation and protection of the ruins became the responsibility of the National Park Service. Any and all artifacts remaining on the site became protected by law. Even picking up broken pieces of glass and rusty nails became illegal.

Though many of Fort Bowie's relics were removed before the site became protected, some, like the cannon ball, have been returned by either the collectors themselves or their descendants. Some of these are now displayed at the visitor center and include a copper water pitcher, dental molar extractor, bayonet, pistol, padlock and dress helmet plate.

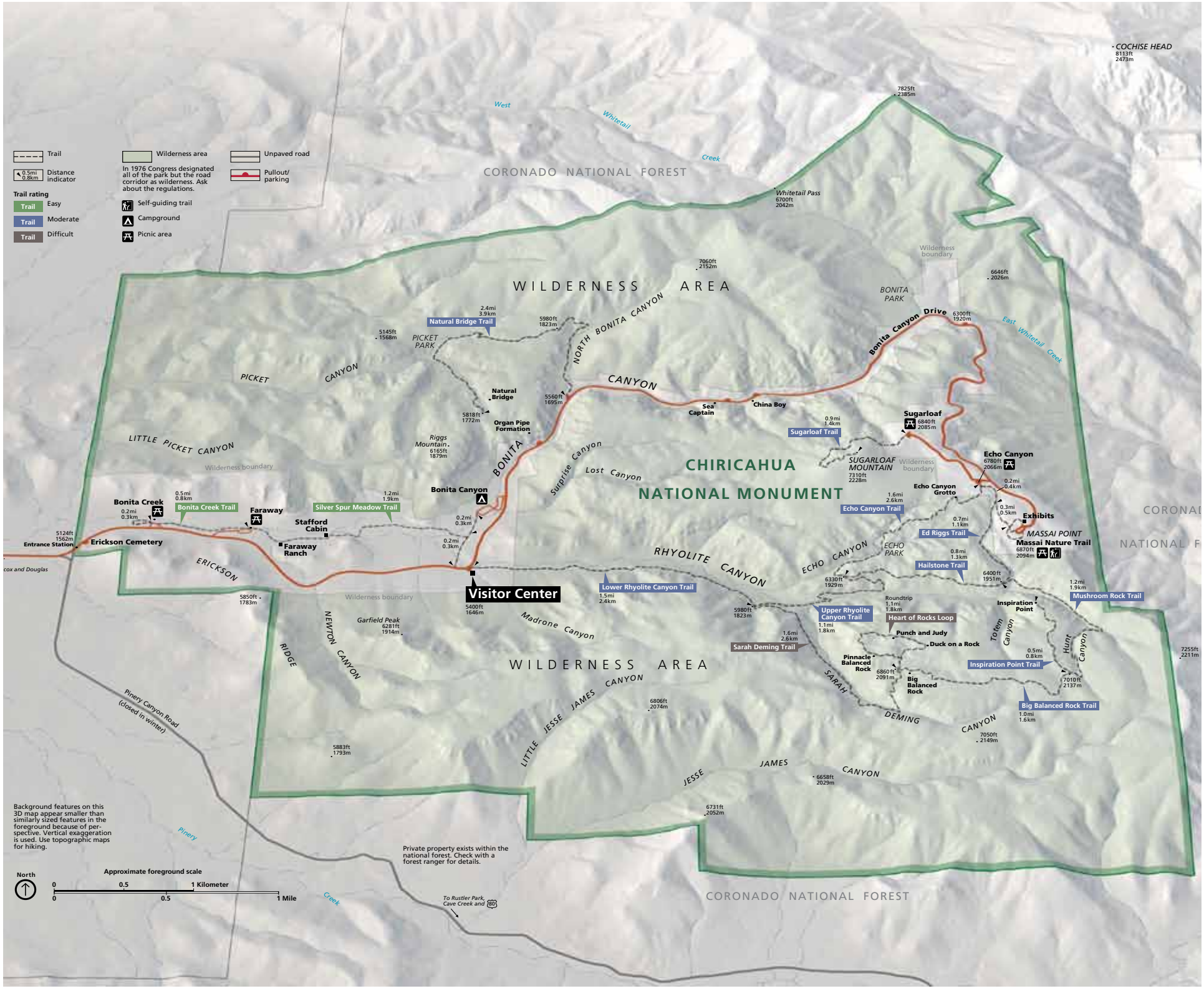
Fort Bowie is steeped in history. Walking to the fort is definitely a part of the unique experience of visiting the ruins of what once was a bustling military community. A mile and a half hiking trail (three miles round trip) to the ruins from the trailhead crosses the Butterfield Overland Trail, passing the post cemetery, the remains of the Chiricahua Apache reservation Indian agency building, the Apache Pass battle site and Apache Spring, before arriving at the fort ruins and visitor center.

Interpretive plaques along the trail explain historical events that unfolded in Apache Pass, traditional homeland of the Chiricahua Apache people. During the late 1800s, conflicts arose when Apaches fought to retain their land and lifestyle as emigrants, miners and adventure seekers, all part of the American westward expansion, rode and walked along the Overland Trail in ever-increasing numbers. Though searching for and collecting artifacts is now strictly forbidden, exploring is still very much a part of visiting Fort Bowie today. Peaceful, serene and profoundly quiet, the ruins of the old fort invite all who visit to walk among the remains and contemplate the past here, discovering for themselves how history has not only changed the landscape here but shaped our very lives as well.

The artifacts in this display case were all collected at Fort Bowie by individuals who later returned them to the National Park Service.

FORT BOWIE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE TRAILS

Ruins Trail: 3.0 miles 4.8 km
Start at: Fort Bowie National Historic Site parking lot trailhead. Trail is open sunrise to sunset. It passes a number of historic features and the upper Sonoran life zone of natural features. The trail splits near Siphon Canyon and allows for a variation in you return trip.
Notes: Staying right at the junction sends you past the Post Cemetery, site of the Battle of Apache Pass and Apache Spring, the keystone of the natural and cultural history. There is an elevation change of 180 feet. The Ridge Trail from the Visitor Center back to the junction ascends 300 feet. It offers a view from the Apache position of the Battle of Apache Pass. This overlook trail has spectacular vistas, albeit a fairly steep accent.



CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT HAS FINE TRAILS

Easy Hikes: Short, smooth walks with little change in elevation

Bonita Creek Loop—0.2 miles/0.3 km

Start at Bonita Creek Parking Lot.
Trail is a loop around the picnic area along the intermittent Bonita Creek. Watch for Apache plume and prickly poppy flowers in spring and early summer. Arizona whitetail deer are frequently seen and this is a good trail for grassland birds.

Bonita Creek Trail—0.5 miles/0.8 km

Start at Bonita Creek or Faraway Ranch Parking Lots.
Trail is alongside Bonita Creek, usually dry, this trail connects the Bonita Creek and Faraway Ranch picnic areas. Look for migrating birds, deer, coatimundi, and javalina.

Silver Spur Meadow Trail—1.2 miles/1.9 km

Start at Faraway Ranch, Visitor Center, Campground.
Trail is alongside Bonita Creek and connects the Faraway Ranch parking lot and the Visitor Center. Going west to east this leisurely walk takes you through the Faraway Ranch Historic District to Stafford cabin then the Silver Spur Meadow, home for the Civilian Conservation Corps camp NM-2-A. The fireplaces are remnants of the 1950s Silver Spur Guest Ranch recreation hall. Still traveling east the junction will direct you to the campground or the visitor center. Stream crossings can be hazardous during spring snow-melt or the summer rains.

Visitor Center to Campground — 0.4 miles/0.6 km

Start at Visitor Center or near the campground group site.
Trail is a safer alternative to walking along the road. Look and listen for birds: dark-eyed juncos in winter, hummingbirds in summer, and acorn woodpeckers year-round. Stream crossings can be hazardous during spring snowmelt or the summer rains.

Massai Point Nature Trail—0.5 miles/0.8 km (No Pets)

Start at Massai Point parking lot.
Trail is full of grand vistas: valleys and mountain ranges, huge balanced rocks and striking vegetation. The paved portion from the parking lot to the exhibit building is wheelchair accessible.

Echo Canyon Grottos—1.0 mile/1.6 km (No Pets)

Start at Echo Canyon parking lot trailhead.
Trail is a great introduction to the wilderness area of the monument and the opportunity to walk among the rock formations. The grottos are on the right hand side of the trail and a good turn around spot if you don't have time to hike the full Echo Canyon Loop.

Moderate Hikes: One-to-four hour hikes with elevation changes of 500 feet or less.

Natural Bridge Trail — 4.8 miles/7.8 km round trip

Start at Natural Bridge trailhead – 1.5 miles/2.4 km east of Visitor Center.
Trail is a little used footpath that climbs through oak and juniper woodlands to a ridge and then drops into the Apache pine forest of Picket Park. It ends at an overlook for the small water-carved bridge. Return by the same trail.

Sugarloaf Mountain Trail—1.8 miles/2.8 km round trip

Start at Sugarloaf Mountain parking lot trailhead.
Trail rises to the summit of 7,310 feet/2,228 meters. The view from one of the highest points in the Monument includes the surrounding valleys, mountains, and all of the Wonderland of Rocks. Lightning activity is monitored during the summer monsoon from the CCC constructed fire lookout. Return by the same trail.

Echo Canyon Loop—3.3 miles/5.5 km (No Pets)

Start at Echo Canyon parking lot trailhead.
Trail is made up of three segments and most people prefer to travel in a counter-clockwise direction. The Echo Canyon Trail winds through and alongside spectacular rock formations (including the Grottos and Wall Street) to the densely wooded Echo Park. Hailstone Trail is fairly level and with its southern exposure is hot and dry. Ed Riggs Trail is among the large pine trees. Allow 2 hours for this hike.

Echo Canyon to Visitor Center—4.2 miles/6.8 km (No Pets)

Start at Echo Canyon parking lot trailhead.
Trail is made up of three segments. Down through the spectacular formation of Echo Canyon to the Upper Rhyolite Trail in densely wooded Echo Park and finally the Lower Rhyolite Trail with its riparian oak forest. Stream crossings can be hazardous during spring snow-melt or the summer rains. Use the 8:30 am Hikers' Shuttle or make sure you have transportation back to your vehicle.

‘EQUINE RANGER BOOMER’ TO THE RESCUE

by Karen Weston Gonzales/NPS Ranger

As the sun rises over the Chiricahua Mountains, a lone bay horse stands in his field facing east. He appears to be watching the sky turn pink. To most people driving by, on their way to Chiricahua National Monument, this big gelding named Boomer looks like any other ranch horse watching the sunrise. Little do they know this is not your ordinary equine.

Boomer is owned by, and works for, the National Park Service. The 18-year-old Tennessee Walker is used to transport injured people down from the trails at Chiricahua and Fort Bowie National Historic Site. With 17 miles of hiking trails at Chiricahua, that transport can potentially be over many miles. A park ranger rides Boomer up the trail to the injured person and, once the victim is carefully lifted up onto the horse, the ranger then leads Boomer back down.

Boomer is saddled up and ready.

Park Ranger Keith Flanery, the field operations supervisor for law enforcement, emergency medical services, and search and rescue at both Chiricahua and Fort Bowie, is grateful to have Boomer on his team. “He greatly speeds up the transport of the patient from the scene to the trailhead reducing the amount of time the patient is in pain and possibly making the difference between life and death or loss of limb for some patients. We do not have enough rangers to provide for all emergencies and helicopters are far away and not always usable at Chiricahua or Fort Bowie. ATVs and UTVs are too wide and not suitable for our trails.”

He adds that, “while horses may seem out of date, that is far from the truth. They can go places and accomplish tasks that neither humans nor machines can.” Without Boomer, Keith says he would need between four and eight human rangers to safely carry an injured person off the trails.

Former Park Ranger Andy Brinkley agrees, “The biggest reason bar none (that Boomer is necessary) is the lack of personnel to effect a rescue for non life-threatening injuries. Typically, carry-outs involve wheeled litters which are a beast to operate, requiring at least a crew of four to five and another crew to take over halfway through the rescue for relief. After going through several of these at Chiricahua with less and less people available it seemed one horse one ranger was the logical answer.”

Andy worked with Boomer for about 15 years. The two first met at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area in Tennessee, where Andy was working in 1993. “The park had decided to expand its horse program and me and the wrangler were tasked with putting the program together,” he said, adding “We decided that all of the horses would be bay (brown body, black legs, mane and tail). Apparently long ago the official government color (for horses) was bay. As word got out that we were looking for bay horses one of the local horse traders from down Knoxville way showed up with a young feisty horse named Boomer.”

After riding the horse, Andy says “we were all impressed and purchased him for $2,000. “You can’t beat his disposition around people. He was a natural at interacting with the public, no bad vices, always willing to stop and see what people had in their backpacks, never shied at trail users, equipment, cars, etc.”

When Andy left Big South Fork in 1997 for a job at Saguaro National Park, in Tucson, Arizona, Boomer went with him. “Boomer had been experiencing severe skin inflammations from unknown causes and the vet recommended a drier climate might cure his condition. As I was supervising the horse program at Saguaro I jumped at the chance to bring him out and to Saguaro he went.”

Their working relationship didn’t end there when Andy next accepted a new job position in 2000. “After I left for Chiricahua I naturally talked Saguaro into transferring him to Chiricahua.” The two continued to work together until 2008 when Andy went to work for the Forest Service.

Coral Conway, an NPS law enforcement ranger, began working with Boomer in the autumn of 2005. She remembers that on her very first rescue at Chiricahua she rode Boomer up the Sugarloaf trail to where a woman named Greta had broken her ankle. Andy was the first on the scene and he splinted Greta’s ankle while Coral rode Boomer up to her. Grateful for the safe ride down the trail, Greta wrote a letter to the park’s superintendent to tell him how much she appreciated Boomer’s assistance. Coral said that since the incident, Greta has come back to Chiricahua every year to visit Boomer and she brings him apples and carrots.

Coral not only worked with Boomer, she took care of him, getting to know the horse quite well. “The main thing I love about Boomer on rescues is that once we arrived on the scene of an injury, he could sense the seriousness in our moods and attitudes and he always became the model rescue horse.”

She adds that “Normally he can be a little pushy being the alpha horse he is, but he seemed to sense when I needed him to go slow, be gentle, and watch every step on the way down a steep mountain trail while he carried someone who was in pain or who had a traumatic injury.”

Coral said that Boomer was a great horse for her personally to re-learn her riding skills after several years of not riding. At first, she said the big horse challenged her rusty skills. “While he did test me on a couple of occasions on my first solo rides with him, I developed what I’d call a great friendship with Boomer while on patrols through Fort Bowie, Chiricahua, and the Coronado National Forest during my three and a half years there.”

She remembers the time when she was compelled to fully trust her equine partner. “Once I was trying to find an old trail that hadn’t been maintained in decades. It was overgrown in some locations and had been washed away by heavy rains in other locations. I knew Boomer had been on the trail before, so I gave him his head and he led the way. After that, I realized if anything ever happened to me on a ride, he’d always make sure I made it back to the trailhead even if all I could do is barely hang on.”

In 2009 Boomer was used in seven rescues. Ranger Flanery says he is generally used about four times a year in a rescue capacity. Law enforcement rangers also occasionally patrol the trails at both Fort Bowie and Chiricahua while riding Boomer.

Rangers take turns feeding him twice a day and cleaning out his feet with a hoof pick. He is regularly groomed. Spending most of his time just hanging out, he waits until he is needed again. When that time comes, Boomer is ready, able and willing to help. That’s his job; he knows and does it very well. And when it’s done, he gets to come home and just be a horse again, watching the sunrise the next day over the Chiricahua mountains. Not a bad life for a working horse. ❦

Strenuous Hikes: Three-to-eight hour hikes with elevation changes of 500 to 1000 feet.

Heart of Rocks: Visitor Center to Heart of Rocks and return—7.3 miles/11.8 km (No Pets)

Start at: Visitor Center parking lot trailhead. Trail is primarily a walk in the woods. Lower Rhyolite is an easy walk. Sarah Deming gains 880 ft/268 m to reach the top of the ridge. Heart of Rocks Loop has more of the unusual formations, many named in the early 19th century by residents of the area. Start the loop to the left and hike clockwise for the best views and easiest walking. Irregular rock steps make this a challenging journey but it’s worth the effort.

Heart of Rocks: Echo Canyon Parking Lot to Heart of Rocks and return—7.3 miles/11.8 km (No Pets)

Start at: Echo Canyon parking lot trailhead. Trail is primarily a walk in the rock formations. An easier route to HOR, there is 610 ft/186m drop down Ed Riggs Trail and up Mushroom Rock Trail to Big Balanced Rock Trail along the ridge. Complete the Heart of Rocks Loop and return the same way.

Heart of Rocks: The Big Loop—9.5 miles/15.4 km (No Pets)

Start at: Echo Canyon parking lot trailhead. Trail is for folks wanting to do everything. It consists of Echo Canyon, Upper Rhyolite Canyon, Sarah Deming, Heart of Rocks, Big Balanced Rock, Inspiration Point, Mushroom Rock, and Ed Riggs trails. Up and down across the canyons, the Big Loop combines the best of the wilderness scenery. Be sure to start early, take snacks, and drink plenty of water on this ALL day hike.

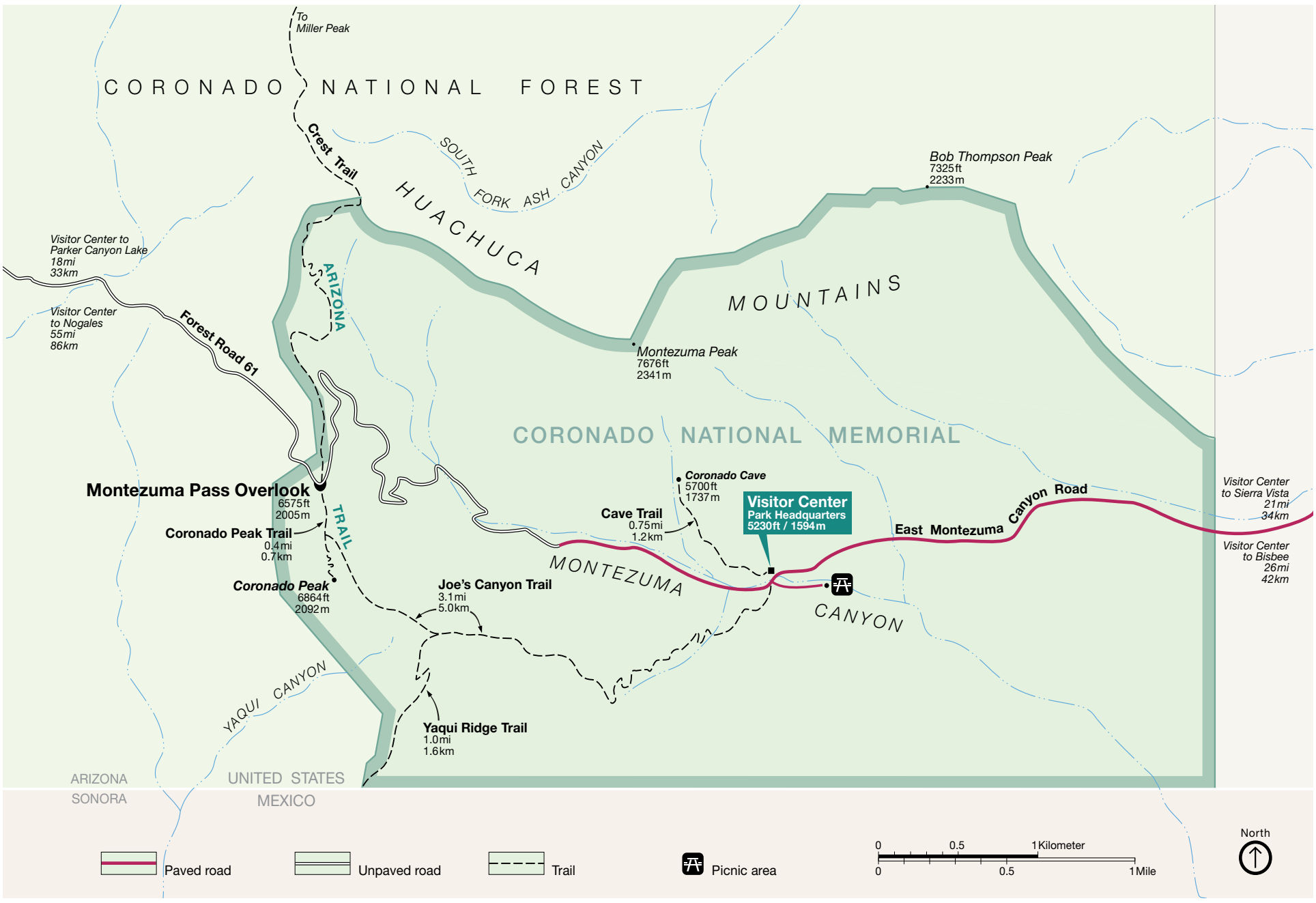
HIKERS’ SHUTTLE

Take advantage of the hikers’ shuttle at Chiricahua as one option to enjoy walking the trails. This free service is provided once a day, every day, leaving from the visitor center at 8:30 a.m. You must register in person at the front desk. Telephone reservations are not accepted. Shuttle capacity is 14 people. Special accommodations for groups can be arranged; call 520-824-3560 x302 to confirm availability.

STORMY WEATHER

Arizona is often known for its beautiful, clear, blue, sunny skies. Visit in summer and you may have the thrill of experiencing southern Arizona’s monsoon.

Usually starting in July and ending in early September dramatic thunderstorms light up the sky and rumble across the canyons. Creeks flow and the sound of ephemeral waterfalls serenade you while hiking the trails. Call for current conditions or check the forecasts at the visitor centers before you begin your hike. **Lightening and flash floods are serious risks. Be safe!**



HIKING IN CORONADO NATIONAL MEMORIAL

TRAILS

JOE'S CANYON TRAIL

LENGTH: 3.1 miles/5 km one way
ACCESS: 500 feet west of the Visitor Center
Trail climbs about 1000 feet in the first mile with scenic views of Montezuma Canyon and the San Pedro River Valley. After reaching the saddle at the top of Smuggler's Ridge the trail continues westward with southerly views deep into the grasslands of Sonora, Mexico. Passing along the northeastern side of Coronado Peak the trail joins the Coronado Peak Trail approximately 200 yards from the Montezuma Pass parking area.

CORONADO PEAK TRAIL

LENGTH: 0.4 miles/0.6 km one way - benches provided.
ACCESS: Montezuma Pass Overlook Trails climb from 6575 feet to 6864 feet. Quotations from the journals of Coronado's captains, posted at scenic overlooks along the trail, provide a glimpse into the minds and hearts of the conquistadors as they trekked northward along the San Pedro River. Coronado Peak offers stunning vistas of the San Pedro and San Rafael Valleys and panoramic views of the desert grasslands.

CORONADO CAVE TRAIL

LENGTH: 1.0 miles/1.6 km one way
ACCESS: Visitor Center
Trail climbs from 5230 feet to 5700 feet. Starting at the Coronado Cave trailhead, this steep and rocky trail requires careful footing as one climbs along the limestone ridge to the entrance of Coronado Cave which is 600 feet long. Visitors must provide their own flashlights, two per person are recommended—no candles or flares.

YAQUI RIDGE TRAIL

LENGTH: 2.0 miles/3.2 km one way
ACCESS: Montezuma Pass Overlook Trail changes elevation from 6575 feet to 5370 feet. Starting at the Montezuma Pass, this trail works its way along the ridgeline and eventually down to the international border. Yaqui Ridge Trail is the beginning of the Arizona Trail which stretches from Mexico to the Arizona-Utah border.

In Coronado Cave

CREST TRAIL

LENGTH: 5.1 miles/8.2 km one way
ACCESS: Montezuma Pass Overlook
Trail changes elevation from 6575 feet to 9446 feet (Miller Peak). The Crest Trail begins at Montezuma Pass and continues out of the park along the ridgeline of the Huachuca Mountains. The entire trail is approximately 26 miles long with Miller Peak the highest point. Temperatures during the winter months can be very cold, with snow possible at times. Check at the Visitor Center for current weather information. ❦

SAFETY ALONG THE BORDER

What Can You Do?

- ❑ Be Aware, Be Safe.
- ❑ Remember that cell phone service is usually out of range within Memorial boundaries
- ❑ Know where you are at all times, follow good safety procedures, and use common sense when making decisions.
- ❑ Do not pick-up hitch hikers.
- ❑ Keep valuables, including spare change, out of sight and lock your vehicle.
- ❑ Avoid traveling on well-used but unofficial "trails".
- ❑ Avoid hiking in areas of major border activity
- ❑ People in distress may ask for food, water or other assistance. It is recommended that you do not make contact. Report the location of the distressed people to the Visitor Center, other park staff, or the Border Patrol.
- ❑ Report ANY suspicious behavior to park staff or Border Patrol. Please do not contact suspicious persons. Contact a Ranger for assistance.

OUR PARTNER

Need a postcard, a book about the parks, or even bottled water? Each of the visitor centers includes a bookstore operated by the Western National Parks Association (WNPA).

This nonprofit organization was founded in 1938 to aid and promote the educational and scientific activities of the National Park Service. Authorized by Congress, it operates visitor center bookstores, produces publications, and supports research and educational programs at more than 66 parks in 12 western states.

Become a WNPA member and save 15% off your purchases either in the parks or on the online store, www.wnpa.org. Ask for a membership form at the visitor center front desk.

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS…

by Sharlot Hart/NPS Ranger

*Bull Snakes are **not** poisonous*

ABOUT A MONTH into my first seasonal position with the National Park Service, my first time living in a National Park site, I saw a snake. This was not just any snake and it was not just off the trail during a routine hike. No . . . this was a five foot long bull snake and it was lying across my doorway at ten at night.

I screamed and jumped back. I was later told that if there was ever a time to scream obscenities, that had been it.

Now, I like snakes and the bull snake is non-venomous, but the pattern on its back was just enough like a diamond-backed rattlesnake that I remembered my healthy dose of respect. Once my wits returned, and I closed the sliding glass door, I got to inspect the snake. I realized it was just a friendly, interested observer. And that's what it did for the next hour: observed me. As long as I sat at my glass door it watched me. And watched me.

It didn't take me long to realize that I was the one behind the glass, not like at the zoo. And I started to think about other rangers who live in the parks and monuments they love and serve. How many of them have had odd night-time encounters?

At Chiricahua National Monument, where I live now, I've done yoga before the watchful and confused eyes of white-tail deer. And I've heard noises I couldn't identify in the middle of the night. I've helped stranded visitors on New Year's Eve and answered questions about illegal activity. I've named the animals who I see again and again… only to find out that another human park inhabitant (employee or family member) had already named it something else.

Living in a national park is quite a privilege. Kids who have grown up as the sons and daughters of career employees say they wouldn't trade their childhood for anything. We all end up gaining a special relationship with the nature that surrounds us . . . but with that privilege comes responsibility for it. And the sometimes devastating realization that it still is nature: wild and captive at the same time. The respect that I—almost belatedly—remembered for that bull snake outside my door is essential to anyone living in or visiting a national park site.

No matter how many deer and coatimundi I name, they are never mine. Rather the monument is theirs and they will be here long after my season ends, watching over me, the stranded visitors and other noises going bump in the night. ❦

THE BEAUTY OF CORONADO NATIONAL MONUMENT

Evening in Coronado National Monument *Photo: Dave Bly*

Stories of seven cities of gold prompted a band of Spanish explorers into a two year journey through the then unknown lands of western and central North America. Francisco Vasquez de Coronado led the expedition, with over 330 Spanish soldiers and 1000 Indian allies and slaves, north from Mexico to conquer new lands for Spain, find wealth in the seven cities of gold, and convert any Native Americans they encountered to Christianity.

Coronado did not find any cities of gold, but his journey established the route for the exchange of languages, technologies, and religion between the Spanish and Native Americans of the north, creating the dynamic culture of the southwest we know today. Coronado National Memorial commemorates this spirit of Spanish exploration in North America in an age filled with many great adventures as well as the vibrant cultures that resulted from the journeys.

Explore Underground: Coronado Cave

Are you looking for a dark experience? Explore the underground wonders of Coronado Cave! The cave interior extends 600 feet in length, with 20-foot ceilings and several crawl ways and short passages. A great cave for any experience level of spelunkers!

Coronado Cave, a special, natural environment, displays the geologic, hydrologic, and biologic history of this region. Water seeping through cracks in the limestone of the Huachuca Mountains sculpted Coronado Cave. Exposed in the beam of a flashlight, beautiful formations, such as stalactites, stalagmites, flowstones, and helictites, emerge from the darkness of the cave.

Coronado Cave provides a home for a diverse community of insects and small animals. Insects are the most predominant form of life in the cave, having adapted to a dark and sparse environment. Small mammals occasionally use the cave for shelter or warmth, generally staying near the light at the entrance.

Access the trail via the new trailhead west of the visitor center on Montezuma Canyon Road. Allow approximately two hours for the 1.5 mile round-trip hike and visit to the cave. Bring water, hiking shoes, and one flashlight per person- two if exploring alone (no candles, flares, or lanterns). ❦

BOOKS: STAFF PICK

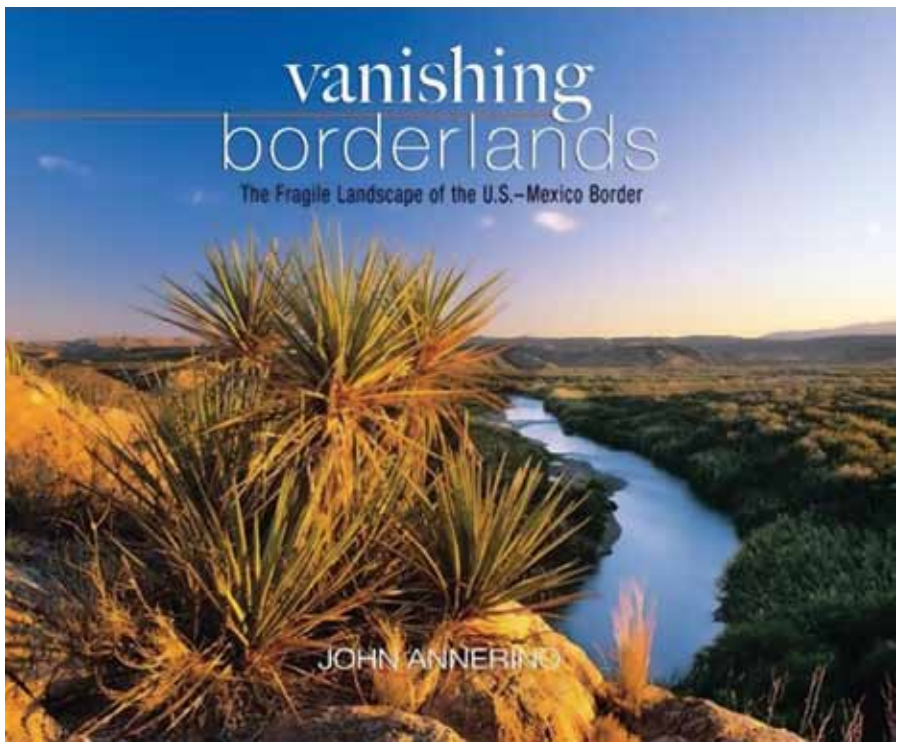
"Vanishing Borderlands: The Fragile Landscape of the US–Mexico border"

John Annerino, famed photographer of the Amerian Southwest, portrays the astonishing beauty of the US–Mexico borderlands and contrasts those with images of the conflict that threatens to destroy them.

These 1,956 miles through Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California on the U.S. side and Nuevo León, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Sonora, and Baja California Norte on Mexico's side are the beautiful, rugged, blood-stained borderlands that once lured conquistadors, missionaries, scalp hunters, bandits, smugglers, pioneers, and colonists from Spain, Mexico, and the United States.

Annerino canoed the Río Grande/Río Bravo del Norte through the legendary Big Bend Frontier, walked treacherous immigrant trails like Arizona's Camino del Diablo (Road of the Devil), explored borderlands jaguar country on foot, and came to know the resilient people who live, work, and cling to the traditions on both sides of the border.

Along the way he chronicled his perilous journeys through this "geography of chaos," capturing in remarkable photographs and evocative essays the stunning landscapes whose fragile environment is threatened by today's politics.



"John Annerino is one of the handful of photographers with a real empathy for the West. His work has an edge to it, reflecting the sheer size and power of his subject—a subject he treats with respect and love. This land, which is so much a part of the American psyche, now threatened by pollution, by the spread of human settlement, and by exploitation, is as raw and exciting in Annerino's work as it is in our mind's eye."—Newsweek

About the Author

Throughout the past 20 years, acclaimed author and photographer John Annerino has become intimately acquainted with the lands and peoples of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands.

He has produced eleven photography books and 21 single-artist calendars from his journeys, including the critically-acclaimed border saga 'Dead in Their Tracks.'

He's been consulted on both sides of the border for many news, documentary, and feature film projects, including ABC Primetime, Life, Newsweek, and National Geographic Adventure, among others.

He's also the author of the Countryman titles 'Grand Canyon Wild' (a Book-of-the-Month Club selection), 'Canyon Country', 'Desert Light' and 'The Photographer's Guide to the Grand Canyon' (both Southwest Books of the Year), 'The Photographer's Guide to Canyon Country', and 'Indian Country'.

He lives in Tucson, AZ. ❦

Coronado National Memorial

PARK BINGO

As you visit Chiricahua National Memorial, Coronado National Memorial, and Fort Bowie National Historic Ssite, draw a picture or write where you see the items in each of the squares. Can you get four squares in a row either up, down, across, or diagonally? How many ways can you make Bingo? Remember, don't collect or disturb any of the features listed in the squares so everyone has a chance to enjoy them. National Park Service areas are special places where everything is protected and preserved.

PINE CONE	**BIRD'S NEST**	**ANIMAL TRACK**	**YUCCA**
CACTUS	**INSECT HOME**	**TREE WITH LEAVES**	**CHIRICAHUA APACHE HOME**
PLACE WHERE ANIMALS FIND WATER	**TREE THAT WAS BURNED**	**OLD HOUSE**	**BEAR GRASS**
BALANCED ROCK	**FEATHER**	**ANIMAL HOME**	**PINE TREE**

Special events include reenactors portraying life at Fort Bowie during the 1860s.

FORT BOWIE FOUNDED AFTER APACHE ATTACK

Have you ever heard the real estate mantra, "location, location, location"? Here in southeastern Arizona, two key factors lead to the location and development of Fort Bowie in the 1860s.

First was the relatively easy traveling route through Apache Pass that separates the Dos Cabezas (two heads) Mountains from the Chiricahua Mountains. Chiricahua Apaches, Spanish explorers, and ever increasing numbers of emigrants took advantage of this natural pass through the mountains.

Second was the dependable water supply of Apache Spring. Cool, clear water bubbling up from the ground. Water is vital to any ecosystem and critical in the desert grasslands. From its discovery by the first Paleo-Indians wandering through this region ten thousand years ago, to the thirsty drivers and passengers riding stages on the Butterfield Overland Mail Route the availability of water was crucial to survival.

In July 1862, Union soldiers from the 1st California Volunteer Infantry, led by Captain Thomas Roberts, were marching east to fight in the Civil War. Needing water, they stopped to replenish their supply. Chiricahua Apache warriors surprised them in a two-day skirmish that became known as the Battle of Apache Pass.

The mountain howitzers saved the day for the soldiers. Two weeks after the battle, soldiers arrived and built a very rustic fort. It was named for the regiment's commanding officer, Colonel George Washington Bowie.

When U.S. military attention turned to the West after the Civil War, regular army units arrived in Apache Pass and began construction of the permanent Fort Bowie in 1868. Eventually thirty-eight structures filled the plateau including officers' quarters, cavalry barracks, corrals and stables, a post trader's store, hospital, and even a grand Victorian style house for the commanding officer.

Geronimo and Cochise's son, Naiche, negotiated the final surrender of the Chiricahua Apaches in September 1886. Fort Bowie was no longer needed and on October 17, 1894, the last troops were transferred. Today, only bits of walls and foundations remain as reminders of this clash of cultures.

Access to the fort ruins and visitor center is via a 3-mile roundtrip walk from the trailhead parking area on Apache Pass Road. If you are physically unable to complete the walk, call the visitor center staff at 520-847-2500 for alternative access directions.

YOUR ENTRANCE FEES WORKING FOR YOU

Diane Dougall/NPS Ranger

The entrance fee you paid today goes directly toward making your visit safer and more enjoyable. Fee monies collected at this park stay here funding projects for the benefit of you, the visitor.

Past Projects

For motorists and hikers alike, badly deteriorated roadside and backcountry signs have been replaced or restored to convey their intended educational and safety messages.

Serious flooding in the late 1990s destroyed entire sections of the Upper and Lower Rhyolite Canyon Trails. Now hikers safely enjoy the beautifully restored steps, water bars, and checks built by Saguaro National Park trail crew members. Funding has also been directed toward rehabilitating the deeply rutted and washed-out sections of Echo Canyon and Sarah Deming Trails.

Entrance fees provided funding for the universally accessible trail to the Exhibit Building at Massai Point and its superior panoramic views.

Far from being the tumbled-down ruins they once were, the horse corrals at historic Faraway Ranch were brought back to life in the sturdy, authentic and beautiful condition you see today.

There is nothing like staying the night under Chiricahua's starry sky, and now that is even more enjoyable because your fee dollars purchased new campground grills and water faucets. The entire Amphitheatre was rehabilitated with a safer ground surface, new seating, plus an updated stage area and communication system.

Future Goals

From future dollars we hope to build ramadas (shade structures) at Bonita Creek and Faraway Ranch picnic areas. A universally accessible trail from Faraway parking lot to Faraway house is also on our wish list.

A more efficient and effective heating and cooling system at the visitor center is planned for the spring of 2010. Along with that is the most ambitious dream of all- the renovation of the visitor center with new and timely exhibits that will be pertinent and educational for many years in the future.

Your fee dollars have worked hard and well for you and with your support will continue to do so in the future. Enjoy what you've built!

CAMPING

Bonita Canyon Campground - Chiricahua National Monument

- ❑ Twenty-five sites are available on a first come, first served basis. There are no hookups (electricity, sewer, or water) or dumpstations. Restroom building has flush toilets and cold water sinks. Bring your own firewood or charcoal. Collecting dead and down wood is not permitted.
- ❑ Maximum motorhome or trailer length is 29 feet.
  Fees: $12.00 per night, per site. Interagency Senior and Access pass holders pay $6.00 per night.
- ❑ Site must be shown as occupied when left unattended.
- ❑ Checkout time: 11:00 a.m.
- ❑ Quiet hours are 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.
- ❑ Site #8 is reserved for disabled permit holders. It is available to anyone on a single night basis when all other sites are occupied.
- ❑ Group site accommodates 8 to 24 people. Fees are $3 per person, per night. A $24.00 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve the site. Call 520-824-3560 ext 302.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES ARE POSTED AT THE CAMPGROUND ENTRANCE

Camping is also available in the Coronado National Forest, 5 miles up Pinery Canyon Road which is near the park entrance station.

Camping is prohibited at Fort Bowie National Historic Site and Coronado National Memorial.

VOLUNTEERS-IN-PARKS VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE!

Why do people volunteer? To have fun, learn new things, meet new people … the list goes on and on. How can you be a part of the National Park Service volunteer community? It's really quite simple; just contact the park and say "I want to make a difference." Whether its a few hours for a special event or a set schedule, the time spent volunteering will be fun and fulfilling. Work alongside park staff in maintenance, administration, resource management, education, or interpretation. Opportunities might include leading tours, educating visitors and students, monitoring resources, or maintaining buildings and trails. The park's volunteer coordinator will match your interests, skills and schedule with the needs of the park. In 2009, 59 volunteers donated over 17,000 hours to Chiricahua NM, Coronado NMem, and Fort Bowie NHS. Let us know how you'd like to be involved in protecting and preserving our nation's treasures. Pick up an application at the visitor center, give us a call, or apply online at nps.gov and begin a new adventure!

"When a V.I.P agrees to share his talents, skills and interests with the National Park Service, he is paying us one of the highest compliments possible by offering a most valued possession---his time."
George B. Hartzog, Jr.,
Past Director, National Park Service

HIKING SAFETY TIPS

Protect Yourself

- ❑ Plan your trip wisely; be back before dark. Hike with a partner, or be sure somebody knows your plans; friend, relative, or visitor center staff person.
- ❑ Be aware of changing weather conditions. Thunderstorms and flash floods are common July through August. Snowstorms are possible November through March.
- ❑ Be careful of loose rock underfoot. Sturdy footwear is recommended. Watch for falling rocks.
- ❑ Carry and drink plenty of water, bring snacks to replenish your energy, dress in layers, wear a hat, and use sunscreen generously.

Protect the Park

- ❑ Stay on the designated trails. Short-cutting trails is prohibited. It's not safe for you and accelerates erosion.
- ❑ All trails are for day-use, only. Backcountry camping is not permitted at Coronado NMem, Chiricahua NM, and Fort Bowie NHS.
- ❑ Watch for wildlife. Black bear, mountain lions, bobcats, coatimundi, deer, and many snakes (including rattlesnakes) live in these areas. Keep a safe distance and never feed the animals, including the birds.
- ❑ Carry out all trash.
- ❑ Please leave rocks, plants, and animals undisturbed for others to see and enjoy.
- ❑ Remember National Park Service places were established for us to enjoy today and for future generations to have the same opportunities. Help preserve and protect these special places!

PARK CONTACTS

CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT

- ❑ Information: 520.824.3560 ext 302
- ❑ Fax: 520.824.3421
- ❑ Mail: 12856 E. Rhyolite Creek Rd., Willcox, AZ 85643
- ❑ Website: NPS.GOV/CHIR

CORONADO NATIONAL MEMORIAL

- ❑ Information: 520.366.5515 x2300
- ❑ Fax: 520.366-5705
- ❑ Mail: 4101 E. Montezuma Canyon Rd., Hereford, AZ 85615
- ❑ Website: NPS.GOV/CORO

FORT BOWIE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

- ❑ Information: 520.847.2500
- ❑ Fax: 520.847.2349
- ❑ Mail: 3203 S. Old Fort Bowie Road, Bowie, AZ 85605
- ❑ Website: NPS.GOV/FOBO

PARK SERVICES

VISITOR CENTERS

Open daily: Coronado NMem 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Chiricahua NM and Fort Bowie NHS 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. Remember most of Arizona does not use Daylight Savings Time. The visitor centers are closed Thanksgiving and December 25th.

FOOD AND LODGING

Bring drinks and snacks with you; there are no vending machines at the parks. Water is available. For lodging, gas stations, and other services, Willcox is the gateway community for Chiricahua NM and Fort Bowie NHS. Sierra Vista is the closest town with services for Coronado NM.

PHONES

At Chiricahua NM, pay phones are located outside the visitor center and near the restrooms in Bonita Canyon Campground. Fort Bowie NHS and Coronado NMem do not have payphones. Cell phone service is very limited.

BONITA CANYON CAMPGROUND: CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT

- ❑ Available on a first come first served basis. There are no hookups.
- ❑ Site must be shown as occupied when left unattended.
- ❑ RVs up to 29 feet.
- ❑ Fees: $12.00 per night, per site.
- ❑ Interagency Senior and Access, $6.00 per night.
- ❑ Checkout time: 11:00 am .
- ❑ Quiet hours are 8 pm to 8 am.
- ❑ Additional Guidelines are posted at the Campground entrance.

Camping is prohibited at Fort Bowie National Historic Site and Coronado National Memorial.

PACK ANIMAL USE

The National Park Service has developed a set of guidelines for pack animal users. These are designed so all trail users will have a satisfying experience.

- ❑ Stock use at Coronado is confined to the Crest Trail.
- ❑ Stock use at Chiricahua is confined to specific segments of the trail system.
- ❑ Stock use at Fort Bowie is confined to the trail system with a hitching area near the Visitor Center.
- ❑ Stock must remain on the trail and should not interfere with hikers. Short term picketing, hobbling, or highlining is allowed but tying to living or dead features is prohibited.
- ❑ Feeding hay or grain is permitted only by feed bags or inside trailers.
- ❑ Designated pack animals are limited to horses, mules, ponies, and llamas.
- ❑ Stock parties shall not include more than 10 animals in one continuous group.

Contact each park for specific information on parking, closures and regulations.

WALKING YOUR DOG

We certainly understand that your dog is considered a full-fledged member of the family. But dogs are natural predators; they chase wildlife and confront other dogs. Some dog owners let their pets run free, and then the pets can become the hunted.
Keep dogs leashed at all times and don't leave them alone in your car or at your campsite. Kennel services may be available in nearby communities.
The following trails are currently open to pets:

Chiricahua National Monument

- ❑ Silver Spur Trail

Fort Bowie National Historic Site

- ❑ All Trails

Coronado National Memorial

- ❑ Crest Trail

A more detailed explanation of park policy is available at each visitor center. Know the rules. It could save your best friend's life.

ENTRANCE FEES AND PARK PASSES

Dogs are allowed on some trails at Chricahua

Chiricahua National Monument charges an entrance fee for visitors aged sixteen and older. Federal Interagency Passes may also be purchased at the park. Your fee dollars directly fund improvements in your parks. Coronado National Memorial and Fort Bowie National Historic Site do not charge entrance fees.

- ❑ Daily Pass: $5 per person; valid for seven days. Children ages fifteen and younger are free.
- ❑ Chiricahua National Monument Annual Pass: $20. Valid for one year from month of purchase. Permits entrance for pass owner and three adults at Chiricahua National Monument only.
- ❑ Interagency Access: Free lifetime pass for permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Permits entrance for pass owner and three adults.
- ❑ Interagency Senior Pass: $10 lifetime pass for U.S. citizens and permanent residents 62 or older. Permits entrance for pass owner and three adults.
- ❑ Interagency Annual Pass: $80 covers entrance fees for most federal lands; National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Reclamation. Valid for one year from month of purchase. Permits entrance for pass owner and three adults.